

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Acrylic acid is a versatile chemical substance and is generally produced on a large scale by the reaction of catalytic gas phase oxidation of propylene, for example. Since this reaction of catalytic gas phase oxidation yields low boiling substance, high boiling substance, etc. as secondary products besides forming acrylic acid, the acrylic acid is purified by removing them in various steps. The impurities which have been separated and removed during the process for obtaining an object from a raw material, therefore, are discharged as waste gas, waste water, waste oil, etc from the process. The waste gas and the waste liquid which are discharged from the process of a commercial scale are proportionately in large amounts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Such waste material as the waste gas and the waste liquid is required to be purified in a high degree and disposed from the viewpoint of preventing the environment from being polluted and the cost for the purification of such waste material is required to be decreased in order to repress the total cost of production. As a technique for accomplishing these requirements, the official gazette of JP-B-63-67,090 discloses an apparatus for the disposal of the waste gas by using a heat exchanger. The official gazette of JP-B-07-112555 discloses a method for the disposal of a waste water containing not only an organic acid but also an ester and an aldehyde thereof by a treatment with an alkali, concentration, and incineration. This method comprises the steps of adding an alkaline substance to the waste water ~~until~~ until the resultant pH value reaches a level of not less than 12 thereby inducing a reaction capable of deriving an involatile compound and a volatile compound, removing at least part of the volatile compound by gasification, further concentrating the remaining waste water, and thereafter burning the concentrate. In view of the adverse situation that since the waste water resulting from the neutralization of an acidic substance intermittently emits an organic acid, the resultant condensed water suffers the COD thereof to rise to the extent of rendering a biochemical treatment difficult to effect necessary disposal, the invention of this official gazette contemplates providing a method for the disposal

of the waste water by separating a volatile organic acid and an involatile organic acid and adjusting the COD value in a range allowing the disposal to be fulfilled effectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The official gazette of International Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2000-514419 discloses a technique which comprises burning a gaseous low boiling component by-produced during the production of (meth)acrylic acid and supplying the other component such that the low boiling or medium boiling component which is dissolved in water and added to the step of burning the gaseous low boiling component. This invention concerns a method for discarding the second component of a low boiling, medium boiling, and high boiling substance formed in the production of (meth)acrylic acid and characterized by burning the gaseous low boiling second component and meanwhile adding the low boiling and medium boiling second component dissolved in water together with the high boiling second component.